

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/RA:RSTHOMPSON:JG

APPROVED BY EA:ROAKLEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, EAID

SUBJECT: OAKLEY TESTIMONY MARCH 17

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROBERT OAKLEY TESTIFIED MARCH 17 ON FY 78 ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BEFORE HIRC SUB-COMMITTEE FOR EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY GENERAL FISH (DOD/ISA) AND MICHAEL ADLER, ACTING ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF AID FOR ASIA. COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE CHAIRMAN LESTER WOLFF, HELEN MEYNER AND HERBERT BURKE.

2. TEXT OF PREPARED STATEMENT AND SELECTED TESTIMONY BEING CARRIED WIRELESS FILE. HIGHLIGHTS BELOW, EXCEPT SUBJECT OF TIMOR COVERED IN SEPTTEL.

3. IN OPENING REMARKS CONGRESSMAN WOLFF NOTED THE PRE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SENCE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION IN HANOI AND SAID AFTER REPORTING TO THE PRESIDENT THE COMMISSION WOULD BE TESTIFYING BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE. LATER IN THE HEARING CONGRESSMAN WOLFF ASKED FOR AN ESTIMATE OF THE VALUE, OR AT LEAST THE COST, OF US-BUILT INSTALLATIONS LEFT BEHIND IN VIETNAM AND SAID HE DESIRED THIS INFORMATION PROMPTLY SO IT COULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION. SINCE THE US COULD HAVE DESTROYED THESE INSTALLATIONS, BUT DIDN'T, IT APPEARS WE HAVE IN EFFECT GIVEN SOMETHING OF CONSIDERABLE VALUE TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. GENERAL FISH NOTED WE HAD TURNED THESE INSTALLATIONS OVER TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PRIOR TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TAKEOVER, BUT PROMISED A REPORT.

4. IN BRIEF OPENING REMARKS SUMMARIZING HIS STATEMENT, WHICH WAS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD, OAKLEY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING OUR FRIENDS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA DURING THE PRESENT PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY IN RELATIONSHIPS AMONG REGIONAL STATES.

5. CONGRESSMAN WOLFF EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE HELICOPTERS GIVEN TO BURMA FOR ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES MIGHT IN FACT BE USED FOR SOMETHING ELSE, SINCE BURMA WOULD NOT ALLOW STATIONING OF A DEA AGENT IN THAT COUNTRY. WITNESSES PROMISED TO REPORT BACK TO COMMITTEE ON EXTENT OF OUR KNOWLEDGE OF HOW HELICOPTERS USED.

6. CONGRESSMAN BURKE ASKED ABOUT CHINESE AID TO THE MALAYSIAN INSURGENCY. OAKLEY NOTED THE VARIOUS POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS, TRIBAL AND ETHNIC BASES FOR INSURGENCIES IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. HE NOTED FURTHER THAT AT PRESENT THE MALAYSIAN INSURGENCY USED PRIMARILY CAPTURED WEAPONS AND PERHAPS A FEW OBTAINED IN THAILAND.

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7. CONGRESSMAN BURKE ASKED HOW THE US WOULD GUARANTEE OIL TO JAPAN IF THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. OAKLEY RESPONDED WE HAD GIVEN NO SUCH GUARANTEE BUT OF COURSE AN INTERRUPTION OF MIDDLE EAST OIL WOULD BE A SERIOUS PROBLEM AFFECTING THE US AS WELL AS JAPAN, AND ONE PURPOSE OF OUR SECURITY STANCE IN ASIA AND THE WORLD IS TO KEEP SHIPPING LANES OPEN.

8. IN CONNECTION WITH THE AID-SUPPORTED POPULATION PROGRAM IN THAILAND CONGRESSMAN WOLFF ASKED ADLER ABOUT A REPORT THAT A CERTAIN ETHNIC GROUP (THE AKHA) WAS BEING STERILIZED OUT OF EXISTENCE, WHICH WOULD AMOUNT TO GENOCIDE IF TRUE, AND RAISED CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE SIMILAR ABUSES ELSEWHERE. ADLER RESPONDED THAT AID IS TERRIBLY CONCERNED ABOUT ANY MISUSES OF AID, THAT WE HAVE A POLICY OF INFORMED CONSENT BEFORE STERILIZATION, AND ATTEMPT TO ENSURE THAT IT IS FOLLOWED. AN INSPECTOR HAS BEEN SENT TO INVESTIGATE AND A FULL REPORT WILL BE MADE TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

9. CONGRESSMAN WOLFF RAISED QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE US IS BUILDING OR ACQUIRING BASES IN THAILAND. OAKLEY RESPONDED FIRMLY THAT WE HAVE NO BASES OR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THAILAND AND NO INTENTION OF ACQUIRING ANY. THE SEISMIC DETECTION STATION AT CHIANG MAI IS NOT US PROPERTY AND CAN'T BE CONSIDERED A BASE.

10. CONGRESSMAN BURKE ASKED ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF LITTORAL STATES TO PASSAGE THROUGH THE STRAITS OF MALACCA AND WAS TOLD WE HAD EXPERIENCED NO PROBLEMS.

11. CONGRESSMAN BURKE ALSO ASKED HOW WE COULD RECONCILE OUR DESIRE FOR CONTINUED TIES WITH OUR FRIENDS WITH OUR OVERTURES TOWARD HANOI. OAKLEY STRESSED THAT PRECISELY BECAUSE WE DO NOT WANT TO GIVE AN IMPRESSION OF TURNING AWAY FROM OUR FRIENDS IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY, OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FY 78 ASSISTANCE REQUESTS ARE AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL AS FY 77. SEVERAL NON-COMMUNIST NATIONS IN AREA ALREADY HAVE RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM AND LAOS, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE CAUTIOUS. WE HOPE TO ENTER A MORE NORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH VIETNAM IF WE CAN, BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH FRIENDLY NATIONS.

12. DURING A DISCUSSION OF OUR INTERESTS IN SEA CONGRESSMAN WOLFF REQUESTED FOR THE RECORD THE OPINION OF THE DEPARTMENT ON THE FUTURE OF ASEAN AND THE NATURE OF THE US ROLE TOWARD IT. OAKLEY PROMISED TO SUPPLY THIS, AND STRESSED THAT ASEAN IS AN ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION WITHOUT ANY MILITARY ASPECT, ALTHOUGH MEMBERS DO HAVE BILATERAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS OUTSIDE THE ASEAN FRAMEWORK. HE NOTED FURTHER THE MODERATE TENDENCIES OF ASEAN IN THE REGION AND IN SO-CALLED THIRD WORLD MEETINGS. ASEAN TRADE IS ORIENTED GENERALLY TOWARD JAPAN AND US AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, AND US HAS CONSIDERABLE PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THESE STATES.

13. IN CLOSING CONGRESSMAN WOLFF URGED THE DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE ASIAN POLICY WHICH WOULD HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND CONGRATULATE THE WITNESSES FOR THEIR OPEN ATTITUDE WHICH AUGURED WELL FOR CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS.

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